

North Carolina State Highway Commission

Raleigh, North Carolina

HIGHWAY AND STREET PLANTING IN MUNICIPALITIES

The following standards and conditions for tree, shrub, and ground cover planting apply to those State Highway System highways and streets within municipalities where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or less. Planting on sections with a higher speed limit and planting that involves exceptions to these standards and conditions must have written approval of the Commission before planting is done.

Distance from Travel Lane. The following are required minimum distances from the edge of travel lane:

Large trees. . . . .	17 feet to trunk (Sketches A,B,C)
Small trees or large shrubs. . . . .	12 feet to trunk (Sketches A,B,C)
Low shrubs in median . . . . .	6 feet to foliage line (Sketch C)
Low shrubs other than in median. . . . .	10 feet to foliage line (Sketch B)
Trees or larger shrubs . . . . .	80 feet from median crossover (Sketch D)

Vertical Clearance. A minimum clearance of 16 feet above the entire pavement width must be maintained at all times.

Unless individual site conditions require an initial 7 foot sidewalk clearance on the right side of the highway, lesser clearance due to use of small-size plants is permissible; but as the plants grow, progressive undertrimming should be done to obtain the eventual 7 foot clearance over a sidewalk area.

Sight Distances. Shrubs must be kept low, and trees and large shrubs under-trimmed sufficiently to permit clear sight in the area between 2 feet and 6 feet above roadway elevations. (Sketch C) Due to widely varying conditions of topography, highway alignment and grade, and type and volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, necessary sight distances longitudinally along the highway and in excess of the lateral minimum described above must be individual site determinations.